

Need More Facts on Water Line Case, Mayor Says

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Torrance Herald

OFFICE AND PLANT AT 1619 GRAMERCY AVE., TORRANCE

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SCHOOLS RENEW BID FOR LAND

A Penny for your Thoughts

"What is your opinion of the recent Ranchero Days held in Torrance?"

Answering were:

Wynette Baker, 902 Kornblum Avenue, 6th grade student at Madonna School:

"My brother and I went out and went on the rides and those were really fun. Sunday we went to the rodeo. That was very exciting! I don't think it could have been better and we are sure looking forward to going again next year."

Donna Butterfield, 1506 W. 203rd Street, housewife:

"We took the children out to enjoy the rides but as we are not a rodeo-minded family we didn't go to that. I think something like that would do better in the cattle states, such as Montana and Wyoming, but here in the city, I don't think people are very interested."

Mrs. E. W. Frohman, 1426 W. 214th St., homemaker:

"We only got to the carnival part but we did enjoy that. My son is in 'Sons Junior Concert Band' and was playing elsewhere when they had the parade so of course we missed that. I think Ranchero Days is good for civic interest and they should continue it."

Mrs. Betty Garcia, 26926 Sunnyfield Dr., Rolling Hills, housewife:

"We did enjoy the rides at the carnival though we did not go to the rodeo. I think the Ranchero Days is a wonderful idea and lots of fun for the community as well as for the kids. I hope they are still having them when our children get old enough to enjoy the rodeo, then we can all go."

Rosemarie Wiseman, 1633 Amapola, student, 7th grade student at Torrance Elementary:

"I think it was lots of fun! They had a lot of good games to play. I didn't go on many of the rides, but played the games instead. We usually go to the parade, the carnival and the rodeo but we couldn't this year as we had company, so only got to go to the midway."

New Bridge Voted

Contract for the construction of a new bridge on 213th St. over Dominguez Channel was awarded by the Los Angeles County Board of Supervisors today to the low bidder, John L. Meek.

The structure will be completed by April of next year. It will cost \$140,030.12.

Water Dispute Report Flayed As Incomplete

Scoring what he called double talk and the fact that more information was needed, Mayor Albert Isen this week called for further reports on ex-Councilman Robert Jahn's transactions with the Torrance water department and other departments.

City to Nix Bid To Park

Torrance city officials have joined with the County Board of Supervisors in plans to seek court nullification of an ordinance passed Tuesday by the Lawndale City Council annexing Alondra Park to Lawndale. The annexation act was passed over the objection of the County Board of Supervisors and came after Torrance had failed in an effort to annex the park. Earlier Superior Judge Eugene Fay ruled against Torrance in favor of Lawndale in a suit brought by the latter to halt the Torrance annexation bid.

Lawndale Mayor Chester Brown said his Council acted because it never has received official notification of a resolution adopted by the supervisors last week.

Grant \$51,000 For Del Amo Improvement

Allocation of \$51,000 for the improvement of Del Amo Blvd. between Maple St. and Crenshaw Blvd. in Torrance was announced today by Supervisor Burton W. Chace.

These funds will be used by the City for engineering, right of way acquisition and construction for this missing section of Del Amo Blvd.

Del Amo Blvd. is a County Master Plan Major Highway which eventually will extend (Continued on Page 9)

Residents Flay Hillside Drain

"Every Friday at 1 p.m., and we can set our clocks by it, here comes a deluge of water down our street carrying mud, debris and green slime," said Mrs. R. G. McLellan, one of a delegation of four ladies from Bluff St., scene of the weekly onslaught according to residents of the deadend street located below the east end of Palos Verdes.

Besides Mrs. McLellan, the foursome included Mmes. H. W. Hansen, W. L. Harris and Frank Pauli, who had called at the office of Wade Peebles, director of public works for the city of Torrance last Monday to make a plea for action to end this nuisance.

COMPLAINTS FROM property owners on Bluff St. described the curb-to-curb layer of mud that stays in the street after water has run off and until the Torrance Street Dept. removes it the following

"I am concerned and disturbed by this report," Isen said. "The people have a right to have a frank disclosure of all of the facts in this case," he said.

IN MAKING specific objections, Isen asked City Manager George Stevens to report on:

1. Ownership of the property at 233rd St. and Arlington Ave. benefited by the water main extension.

2. Opinion on responsibility of the owner in the matter.

3. WHETHER pressure was put on Water Superintendent Angus McVicar by councilmen or anyone else to extend a water main without the full deposit.

4. Was the city manager consulted in the matter.

5. When did city manager first have knowledge of this matter.

6. What recommendations for disciplinary measures, if any, does the city manager have.

THE REPORT made by Stevens to the council and made public at the Tuesday council meeting indicated that the cost of the original installation was \$4157.32.

Of this, Jahn Construction Co. paid \$1000 and Oilfield Trucking Co., who paid a pro-rata share to tie into the new line on Arlington Ave., paid \$441.64. Still due the city is \$2275.68.

IN A LETTER to the city manager on July 15, Jahn acknowledged the debt, and said as soon as his corporation had been discharged from liability by bankruptcy proceedings now in progress, he would execute a personal note to the city for the balance.

The four five-unit apartment buildings were constructed last year for Councilman Willis G. Blount by the Jahn Construction Co. Blount has denied prior knowledge of the fee shortage.

Mrs. Harris pointed out that the water and mud brought in swarms of mosquitos and insects and that she felt that their bites had brought on an epidemic of scarlet fever and strep-throat among children living there.

THE LADIES also told of damage done to their parked cars when passing vehicles splashed mud over them and with no sidewalks on the street foot traffic was impossible. They added that the value of their property was being affected by this condition.

Peebles told the ladies that there was no law prohibiting upstream water from being allowed to run off through lower streets, but if the investigation city officials or

(Continued on Page 9)



AT FOUNDERS DAY . . . Henry W. Creeger, (right), president of the board of directors of Torrance Memorial Hospital greets Miss Esther Maxwell, first director of nursing services, and R. R. Smith, president emeritus of the board, during the 35th Annual Founders Day luncheon at the hospital yesterday. The board officials reviewed the history of the hospital for the guests at the luncheon. (Herald Photo)

New Group Told

Traffic Safety Campaigns Must Aim at Individuals

To achieve the maximum in traffic safety education, statistics on deaths and injuries should be broken down to cities, communities, areas, blocks, and even to individual homes, members of the city's newly organized Traffic Safety Council were told this week.

George E. Watts, director of the Traffic Safety Division of the Los Angeles chapter of the National Safety Council, told the members of the seven-man council that the most effective campaigns were those that reached the individual.

USING 1959 statistics as a base, Watts reported that there were 37,800 deaths and nearly 1½ million injuries on the nation's roads last year.

Of these, California registered 3588 deaths and 143,636 injuries; Los Angeles County had 832 deaths and 63,132 injuries, and the city of Torrance had 9 deaths and 561 injuries.

WATTS, WHO WAS introduced by Chairman George Kurtz, said solutions to the traffic problems lie in the area of records (to pinpoint causes), engineering (to eliminate causes), police (for traffic supervision), courts, schools, and organizations, such as the city's new Traffic Safety Council.

He gave strong emphasis to the "Three Es" of the traffic problem, engineering, enforcement, and education.

LEAVE THE specifics of traffic enforcement and engineering to the professionals, Watts warned the new group. He emphasized that the safety council organization's goals should be to generate support for the enforcement agencies, education on traffic safety procedures, and to carry on a continuing public education program through newspapers and other media such as brochures, pamphlets, and statistical data on causes of accidents.

THE ENABLING resolution setting up the council follows this line, Chairman Kurtz said after the meeting. The powers (Continued on Page 9)

Mayor Joins Schools in Land Fight

Efforts of the Torrance Unified School District to obtain a 26-acre site declared surplus to the needs of the Naval Annex here have been renewed by the board of education, school superintendent, and mayor. Letters sent out yesterday over the signature of Dr. J. H. Hull, superintendent of schools; William C. Boswell, president of the board of education, and Mayor Albert Isen, all urged the General Services Administration to reconsider its decision to offer the land for public sale for industrial development.

SCHOOL OFFICIALS received encouragement in their battle to obtain the surplus property when a local representative of the Department of Health, Education, and Welfare told the board that he is recommending an appeal of the decision to the GSA.

John P. Gifford, regional representative of the federal department said in a letter that his office is recommending an appeal of the General Services Administration decision to sell 26 acres of surplus land.

FOR SOME TIME, the Torrance Unified School District has sought the 26-acre surplus plot at the southern end of the Torrance Navy Depot. It indicated the land was needed to expand Torrance High School athletic facilities now and as a possible site for a fifth high school. It was believed that the land could be obtained for a fraction of its estimated \$600,000 value.

However, the General Services Administration recently ruled that the land should be sold for industrial use. The Department of Health, Education and Welfare had recommended that the land be awarded to the schools.

Amputee Better, Gets \$\$

Latest report on Frank Kelley, double amputee veteran of World War II, indicated that he is greatly improved after being hospitalized by a heart attack that was followed by a relapse when he learned that his mother, Mrs. Margaret Oltman, had died last Thursday.

The Veterans Administration expedited payment of more than \$11,000 to Mrs. Kelley, 1549 W. 224th St., when they learned through the HERALD that Kelley had not received his disability payments for three months.

Mrs. Gretha Kelley received the check and also a purchase discount for all Federal Post Exchanges which 100 per cent disabled veterans are entitled to, Les Fitzgerald, V. A. public relations officer, said.

He also said the V.A. would pick up Kelley's Harbor General Hospital tab.

New CBS Project

The Columbia Broadcasting Co. today announced plans to build a new transmitting station on the grounds owned by the company at Hawthorne and 190th St. Ground has already been broken and construction is due to start immediately.

Democrat for 94 Years---Switches Parties

By REID BUNDY
Managing Editor

Mrs. Bettie H. Swain, who was born in Tennessee in the waning days of the Confederacy and is today the oldest surviving member of the United Daughters of the Confederacy, came to a decision this week.

The 94-year-old Torrance resident, who claimed she has been a Democrat during each year of her nearly one century of life, called in a deputy registrar of voters and changed her party affiliation to read "Republican."

MRS SWAIN, who lives with her daughter, Mrs. Elizabeth Mentzer at 3447 Newton St., in Walteria, says she decided to switch after watching the conventions . . . and after getting some "advice from a nephew."

Bothered by a back ailment which will keep her from the polls, Mrs. Swain is applying for an absentee ballot for the November elections so she can cast her vote for Richard Nixon.

"I JUST LIKE Mr. Nixon," she says by way of explanation. Mrs. Swain was born on a plantation near Summerville, Tenn., and still has some of the family silverware her

mother and servants buried in the yard "when those Yankees were coming."

She attended the Huntsville Female College at Huntsville, Ala., where she developed her talent as an artist. She has since been recognized for her paintings, and was recently honored by the Four Arts Club in Los Angeles for paintings she did when she was 91 years old.

AFTER HER marriage to Charles Swain, she put down her painting brushes for 60 years, she said. One day, her husband came home with an artist's outfit, and she has been busy at it ever since, completing her latest scene last week despite failing eyesight.

She taught painting in Indian Territory after leaving Alabama College, and numbers among her pupils the late Will Rogers.

WHEN SHE decided it wasn't too late to be a Republican, she was visited by Anita Sharpe, deputy registrar of voters and volunteer in the area Republican Headquarters at 1406 Cravens Ave.

Come Nov. 8, at least one life-long Democrat, a Southerner whose roots are deep in the Confederacy, will break with the traditions of her background and vote Republican.



MAKING THE SWITCH . . . Deputy Registrar Anita Sharpe here reregisters Mrs. Bettie Swain, 94-year-old Torrance resident, who is bolting the Democratic party after being a "Democrat for 94 years." She said she liked Mr. Nixon, by way of explanation. Mrs. Swain is the oldest living member of the United Daughters of the Confederacy. (Herald Photo)